Independence and Peace for the Vietnamese People!

YANKEE GO HOME!

WE are strong because of the justice of our cause, the unity of our entire people from North to South, our traditions of undaunted struggle, and the broad sympathy and support of the fraternal socialist countries and progressive people throughout the world. We shall win!

At this new juncture, we are at one in our determination to undergo any hardships and sacrifices, and resolutely fulfil the glorious task of our people: TO DEFEAT THE U.S. AGGRESSORS.

President HO CHI MINH's
Appeal of July 17, 1966

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SOUTH VIETNAM

L.A.F. RELENTLESS OFFENSIVES IN QUANG TRI — THUA THIEN

Quang Tri: 1,320 G.I.s Put out of Action at Gio An. Dong Ha Airfield Paralysed.

Thua Thien: A U.S. Convoy Intercepted: 50 Vehicles Destroyed, 200 Ennemies Wiped Out.

NORTH VIETNAM

Up to July 12, 1967

2,093 U.S. PLANES DOWNED

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS ON VIET NAM (JULY 20, 1954)

U.S. STRATEGY IN SOUTH VIET NAM: PREMISES AND OUTCOME

BEN TRE

THE U.S. imperialists' plan to kick out the French and seize control of Indo-China step by step through their neocolonialist policy dated back to 1942-1943 during World War II, under President Roosevelt. Their insatiable imperialist greed prompted them to seek another outlet for their goods, and another supplier of raw materials, especially natural rubber, and to secure a springboard for expanding their power to the whole of South-East Asia, an important strategic area with a big population and abundant resources.

After the Japanese fascists surrendered, tens of thousands of Chiang Kai-shek troops moved in Viet Nam for a "take over" from the Japanese forces. That, in reality, was undertaken under a long-prepared scheme of U.S. imperialism to wrest the French colony from the hands of its conquerors and enslave the Vietnamese people in a way reminiscent of this Vietnamese proverb: "First settle in the courtyard then occupy the kitchen."

However, the August 1945 General Insurrection of the Vietnamese people was brought to success. Their struggle under the firm and able leadership of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party (now the Viet Nam Workers' Party) and President Ho Chi Minh foiled the U.S. scheme and by mid-1946 the Chiang Kai-shek occupation troops were forced to move out.

After World War II the centre of international reaction switched from Europe to America. U.S. imperialism having become the chieftain of world reaction, the biggest aggressor and exploiter, the international gendarme. But even at that time U.S.-led imperialism already found itself in a passive and defensive position in a new period of history which was mainly and essentially characterized by a change in the world balance of forces in favour of the socialist camp and the movement for national independence, democracy and peace. At such a historical juncture, to achieve world hegemony, U.S. imperialism began speedily developing an extensive, overall strategic program embracing all fields of activity, political, military and economic.

In 1947—1948, it initiated two much-publicized plans known as the Marshall and Truman plans which served as structures of this strategic program. The neo-colonialist policy assumed an unprecedented scale and a fairly comprehensive theoretical scope. The U.S. global strategy was then pervaded by the so-called "policy of strength". Contingent upon this policy was the delineating of strategic areas all over the globe and the establishment of military blocs such as the N.A.T.O., C.E.N.T.O. and S.E.A.T.O. Viet Nam was made an important link in the South-East Asian strategic area.

In execution of its plan to turn Viet Nam into a new-type colony, throughout the nine years of our people's resistance to the French colonial war of reconquest, U.S. imperialism poured money and materials into the Indo-Chinese theatre not only to save an ally but also and chiefly to pave the way for implanting its neo-colonialist policy in Viet Nam. But the French lost the war in spite of this massive American shot in the arm. One half of the country was completely liberated. This was tantamount to a failure of the U.S. interventionists. It is safe to say that within nearly ten years, from 1945 to 1954, U.S. imperialism experienced three heavy defeats in Asia. The first occurred in 1949 when the Chinese revolution won success; the second in Korea in 1953 and the third in Viet Nam in 1954. The fall of Dien Bien Phu not only disheartened the French colonialists but also enraged the U.S. interventionists. The then U.S. Secretary of State J. Foster Dulles and Admiral Radford, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, wanted to save the situation by taking big risks but finally had to swallow the pill.

HOWEVER, U.S. imperialism could not reconcile itself to defeat.

May 1954 witnessed the total defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu. The Geneva Conference on Indo-China was convened. The U.S. openly put into effect its plan to oust the French and occupy South Viet Nam through its neo-colonialist policy with three main objectives in mind: enslave the South Vietnamese people and repress the national liberation movement there; turn South Viet Nam into a military base to prepare for an eventual attack on North Viet Nam and other socialist states when the opportunity offers; and check the advance of socialism to South-East Asia. The U.S. held that France was no longer in a position to retain her colonies in Indo-China. Hence, the necessity for the U.S. to fill the "vacuum".

(Continued page 2)

HOMAGE TO OUR REGRETTED COMRADE NGUYEN CHI THANH

AFTER a serious heart attack, Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, General of the Viet Nam People's Army, a member of the National Defence Council, of the D.R.V.N., died on July 6, 1967, at 9 a.m., aged 53, at the Military Hospital No 108 in Hanoi.

His passing away has deeply grieved the country, for his contribution to the cause of national independence and socialism was most important.

☆

GENERAL Nguyen Chi Thanh was born on January 1, 1914 in Thua Thien province. At the age of 17, he joined the Revolution against French domination and worked in extremely difficult conditions, and was many times imprisoned and deported. He shared in the leadership of the August Revolution in his capacity as a Central Committee member and Secretary of the Party Committee of Trung Ky (Central Viet Nam). During the anti-French resistance war, he held many important leading posts: Secretary of the Thua Thien Provincial Party Committee, later on, Secretary of the Party Committee of the Binh—Tri—Thien sub-section, Secretary of the Party Committee of the 4th zone (1948-1950), Head of the General Political Department of the Viet Nam People's Army, Vice Director of the Party General Military Committee, and member of the Political Bureau of the Party's Central Committee (1951). In 1959, he was appointed general of the Viet Nam People's Army by the National Assembly, the Government and President Ho Chi Minh. In 1960, he was reelected to the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Workers' Party. In 1961, he was put in charge of the Agricultural Department of the Party and became a member of the National Defence Council of the D.R.V.N. When the Vietnamese people started the resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, he was re-transferred to the army.

Following a serious heart attack, in spite of the solicitude of the Party's Central Committee, the Government and the High Command of the Viet Nam People's Army, and the devotion of the doctors, he passed away at 9 a.m. on July 6, 1967.

Comrade Nguyen Chi Thanh was one of the most outstanding leaders of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and a talented general of the Viet Nam People's Army, loved by all as an indomitable and exemplary fighter.

U.S. STRATEGY IN SOUTH VIET NAM: PREMISES AND OUTCOME

(*Continued from page 1*)

as Dulles put it. Conceited over its huge military, political, economic, technical and financial potentials, the U.S. thought it would be sheer child's play to oust the French and supplant the French colonial regime by the U.S. neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam to control and deceive the South Vietnamese people, considering its incontested, overall superiority over the French.

But it was exactly from this calculation that, strategically speaking, the U.S., while revealing its ultra-reactionary and unjust nature, committed **a great mistake in its inaccurate appraisal of the balance of forces**, in overestimating its own forces while underestimating others. It failed to realize that the world balance of forces between the revolutionary movement and imperialism had substantially changed after World War II and had not ceased to change in the ten subsequent years (1945-1954). They did not realize either that the balance of forces between the imperialist powers themselves had also undergone many changes. In particular, it did not see **that great changes had also occurred in the balance of forces** in the Vietnamese society, that the revolutionary forces of the Vietnamese people had gained absolute superiority after the defeat of the French and were in a winning position.

With careful and speedy preparations, within only a few years the U.S. set up in South Viet Nam a stooge administration headed by Ngo Dinh Diem and set the pattern of the American-style "democracy" to serve as a political prop. At the same time the U.S. concentrated efforts on building a big puppet army with all arms and services and equipping it with modern weapons. The U.S. and its puppets also undertook some economic measures to deceive the South Vietnamese people in an attempt to create a "triple support" (political, military and economic) internally, while externally they relied on the "protection umbrella" of the South East Asia Treaty Organization. With such an apparatus the position of the U.S. and Ngo Dinh Diem looked unchallenged. But inwardly it was a different picture. The antagonisms between the South Vietnamese people on the one hand and the U.S.-Diem regime on the other flared up almost instantly, gradually developed and became more and more acute. The U.S. and Ngo Dinh Diem in practice were alienated from the masses and opposed by them right in the first years. Also transparent from the outset were the contradictions within the puppet administration. Thus, right at the beginning the stage had been set for the revolution of the South Vietnamese people. The revolutionary situation, symptoms of which had already become visible in the first days of the Diem rule, quickly developed into a widespread revolutionary situation throughout South Viet Nam within a few years.

BY 1959-1960 the situation in South Viet Nam had undergone major changes. The U.S. no longer had the situation under its complete control. The puppet administration, torn with contradictions continued to weaken and faced serious crises. The puppet army was threatened with disintegration before the upsurge of the revolutionary tide. In the countryside and the mountain areas the people rose up in isolated insurrections while in the towns political unrest continued to spread... All this happened and developed beyond all expectation of the U.S. For the first time the latter felt it was facing the the danger of failure and was in fact beginning to experience its bitter taste. Its setback stemmed from an unjust policy and a **basic and big strategic error which consisted in the choice of the wrong time, wrong place, wrong adversary as well as the wrong prop, its neo-colonialist inroad into Viet Nam.**

The reactionary and unjust nature of the U.S. intervention and its fundamental errors in strategy have been steering the course of the overall U.S. action in South Viet Nam, bringing it expected consequences and failures.

However, to save the situation and make up for these setbacks, the U.S. in 1961 launched a "special war" in South Viet Nam.

The whole of the 400,000-strong puppet army was thrown into combat under the command of 25,000 American "advisers". Washington sent General Maxwell Taylor to take in hand the strategic command of the war. Taylor brought with him the latest tactics of the Pentagon such as the "heliborne tactics", the "armoured assault tactics... At the same time Cabot Lodge', a first-class politician, arrived in South Viet Nam to take charge of political affairs and the "pacification" program. Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, defying public anger, initiated a vast state policy of "strategic hamlets" in the hope of saving the situation and winning victory in the shortest period of time.

However, in 1963 the U.S. got rid of Diem. The latter's death not only marked the end of the most wilful and efficient servant of the U.S. but also the failure of the first stage of the U.S. neo-colonialist policy in South Viet Nam. The political crisis of the puppet administration reached its climax. The puppet army began to fall asunder and lose its strategic effect, both in the offensive and the defensive, and was no longer trusted by the U.S. The "strategic hamlet" state policy had been basically frustrated. The South Viet Nam revolution deployed its vast political and military forces in stormy attacks on the enemy. A turning point had been reached in the balance of forces. Whereas the U.S. and its puppets were driven into a losing and defensive strategic position, the South Viet Nam revolution gained the strategic initiative and offensive. To tell the truth, the U.S. had already sensed the danger of total failure of its "special war" after the bloody defeat of the puppet army at Ap Bac in My Tho in early 1963. Moving ahead with the impetus of the new victory, from the end of 1963 to early 1965 the South Viet Nam revolution continued to attack the enemy relentlessly with all the three categories of armed forces and on all the three fronts—military and political struggle and agitation among enemy troops—in all theatres of operation including key areas under enemy control. From the middle to the end of 1964, especially after the Binh Gia disaster of the puppets the U.S. became aware of the danger of total collapse. In early 1965 came the first, open admission by Washington that the U.S. was losing militarily, that the South Viet Nam revolutionary forces had gained the initiative of action on the battlefields. In the political field the U.S. admitted that their agents were on the verge of total collapse whereas the South Vietnamese people had had the upper hand in all fields, military, political and moral.

This was the death knell for the U.S. "special war", which could no longer withstand the tidal wave of the South Viet Nam revolution. That was an extremely serious defeat of the U.S. and its puppets on both the political and military planes. That also constituted a new and serious strategic mistake of the U.S.

THE U.S. again threw its stakes into a new game. By the middle of 1965 from the strategy of "special war" it switched to the strategy of "limited war" along with

AN IMPERISHABLE APPEAL

CU CHI district, a resistance zone forty kilometres from Saigon, constitutes a permanent threat to American bases and puppet administrative centre: for years, Saigon troops, then American forces have been trying to drive Liberation forces from there. Every means has been brought into play, B.52s included. In many villages, not a tree is left standing, let alone houses. The land is pockmarked with enormous bomb craters. And yet, no sooner has an American unit penetrated there than underground tunnels resolute and indefatigable fighters emerge. The numerous armoured car carcasses littering the the ground are evidence of the heavy losses sustained by the aggressors.

Cu Chi is no exception, in North as well as South Viet Nam. Whether Quang Nam, or around Da Nang, or in Quang Binh — Vinh Linh, north of the 17th parallel, one finds everywhere fighting villages which razed by artillery, bombs, napalm, are none the less continuing a victorious resistance. In those villages, in the North as well as the South, a foreign visitor will be struck not only by the combativeness, but also by the vitality and optimism shown by the people. School activities, singing, play-acting continue; vegetables are grown even on the edge of bomb craters which, filled with water, serve for fish-breeding.

To fight, produce, and build a new life — such activities are closely integrated and indissolubly linked together. Of course, the armed forces are there. But soldiers also participate in harvesting or ploughing, young peasant women learn to handle rifles and superfire artillery pieces, little boys help in collecting intelligence or carrying weapons.

One understands why, in South Viet Nam, the Americans are caught in an immense labyrinth where they get trapped everywhere and are exposed to blows from every side, and why North Viet Nam, which, proportionately to her population and area, has been receiving more bombs than either Hitler's Germany or Japan did in World War II, continue none the less to oppose fierce resistance to American aircraft while going on with socialist building.

It is undeniable that the Americans have licked into shape an extraordinary war machine. Their bombers are capable of dropping hundreds of tons of bombs on a tiny locality, their heliborne units can travel hundreds of kilometres in a few hours, and their aerial reconnaissance photos record the least detail on the ground.

But to this extraordinary war machine, the Vietnamese people, in both North and South, have opposed a resistance which is not less extraordinary, by its tenacity, ingenuity, and especially its achievements. For two years now American aircraft have been pounding North Viet Nam, and the American expeditionary corps has been launching operation after operation in South Viet Nam. Yet, McNamara, in his recent trip to Saigon, could only admit failure. In July 1965, the U.S. Command in Saigon asked him for 150,000 reinforcement troops with a view to its first dry season counter-offensive; in July 1966, it required another 200,000; in July 1967 an instiable Westmoreland clamours for 200,000 more! American marines decimated along the 17th parallel, the occupation of the Mekong delta postponed sine die, "pacification" in a bad shape, American troops running into trouble on the Western High Plateaux, such are, for the American command, the results of two years' strenuous efforts.

AN old peasant of Cu Chi has been asked the reason why he is obstinately defending his completely razed village. "That's where the graves of my father and mother are," he answered. The land of his ancestors, the tombs of his forbears: never will a Vietnamese worthy of this name allow them to fall into foreigners' hands. Seven centuries ago, when a 500,000-strong Mongolian army was about to invade Viet Nam, each patriot tattooed the following inscription on his arms: "*Sat That*" (Death to the Tartar invader!) Now in the heart of each Vietnamese, the following words are graven in letters of fire: "*Diet My!*" (Death to the Yankee aggressor!)

If the question is put to a young N.F.L. fighter or a North Vietnamese gunner, one will find also another motive. The Vietnamese people are not only defending the patrimony left to them by their ancestors; they have also been building for the last few years, in the North and in liberated regions in the South, a new society where the finest dreams of yore are coming true. American aggression aims at destroying both our national past and our hopes for the future. The Vietnamese people will defend to the end their nation's past and future.

In vain will the Americans intensify their air raids and send in more troops. In the hearts of the 31 million Vietnamese people, the appeal launched by President Ho Chi Minh on July 17, 1966 will always resound: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom!"

ONE YEAR AFTER PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's APPEAL (July 17, 1966)

THE FORCE THAT RAISES THE PEOPLE

ON July 17, 1966, President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved leader of the Vietnamese people, launched an appeal calling on the entire people to give a great impulse to their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. One year has elapsed. The President's sacred appeal has penetrated deep into the heart of every citizen of our land. It has become a great moral and material force which has brought all our fighting and production activities to a new level and made possible new glorious successes. Millions as one man, the Vietnamese people have grown deeply conscious of the great significance of his words: "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom!" For the sake of independence and freedom, the Vietnamese people are ready to endure all sacrifices and hardships and resolved to fight on until final victory.

In response to President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, in all branches of activity, in all regions, shining examples have blossomed in the fighting and production, first of all in armed fighting, and large numbers of American aggressors and puppet troops have been wiped out.

In South Viet Nam, in Winter 1966-Spring 1967, the Liberation Armed Forces put out of action 175,000 enemy troops, among them 70,000 Americans and 15,000 satellite troops, foiled the second dry-season counter-offensive launched by the American expeditionary corps and have followed this up with crushing blows during the past two months of the rainy season. The first, extremely important, phase of local warfare started by American imperialism in South Viet Nam, has been defeated.

In North Viet Nam, nearly 2,100 American aircraft have so far been downed, and the "absolute supremacy of the U.S. air force" myth shattered to the ground. Many vessels of the American 7th Fleet have been set on fire or damaged. Criminal attacks launched by U.S. air, naval and artillery forces on cultural and social works, populous areas, villages and hamlets, towns and cities of North Viet Nam, especially on Hanoi and Haiphong, with a view to bringing pressure to bear on the people and government of the D.R.V.N. and forcing them to kowtow to American diktat and give up their sacred duties towards their 14 million Southern compatriots, have not yielded the results Washington had expected. On the contrary, the higher the Americans escalate the war, the more desperate their situation becomes, on both the military and political planes.

It is clear that on the Viet Nam battlefield, the Americans have never found themselves in such a quandary, from the points of view of both strategy and tactics.

It is also clear that this situation will worsen day by day and lead them to inevitable defeat.

The highly significant military successes reaped by our people in both North and South Viet Nam are the logical product of their revolutionary heroism developed by President Ho Chi Minh's appeal. Many heroic examples have been set in the cause of fierce fighting against the enemy. Millions of anti-U.S. fighters, millions of combatants who fearlessly "aim their guns straight at the enemy" have urged forward in response to the President's appeal, and emulated each other in annihilating the aggressors.

In all fields — political, military, economic, cultural, social — the people of both North and South Viet Nam have achieved glorious successes.

The South Vietnamese people and armed forces have not only fought bravely. They have also proved full of creativeness in production and building. The liberated areas have been continuously expanded and consolidated. A new order — the people's democratic order — has been set up, and constitutes a solid basis for a protracted struggle which will defeat the American aggressors and their flunkeys.

Resolved to build the North into a great rear base for the great front, the South, vigorously urged on by the President's appeal, the North Vietnamese people, over the past year, have been selflessly fighting and working to

(Continued page 7)

Harvesting of rice in an agricultural co-operative.

IN their fight against the U.S. war of destruction over the past two years or so, the people of Haiphong city have built, on an average, one regional industry enterprise per month. By June 25, 1967, two-thirds of the City's regional industry establishments had overfulfilled their first half-year plan from 5 to 35 days ahead of schedule and from 53 to 80 per cent of the plan for the whole year.

IN spite of continued U.S. air attacks over the past two years, Nam Ha province (covering Nam Dinh textile city and Phu Ly town) has built 420 new hydraulic projects which help transform 28,000 hectares of single-crop fields into double-crop fields. In the 1967 Summer rice crop, it obtained an average yield of 2,094 kg per hectare, an increase of 32 per cent over 1966. In industry, the tempo of development in 1966 increased by 4.8 per cent compared with 1965, and output value in the first half of 1967 increased by 14.2 per cent compared with the corresponding period of last year. In communications, 300km of highway and 7,500km of rural roads have been built.

ALONG with the movement to win the title of "Valiant 5-Ton (paddy) Fighter", the youth of Ha Bac, Hanoi, Haiphong and other localities across North Viet Nam have

(Continued page 7)

HERE and THERE in the DRV

AN IRRESISTIBLE MOVEMENT

THIS is the movement of the world's peoples in support of the just fight of the Vietnamese people for independence and freedom. While intensifying the war of aggression against Viet Nam, the U.S. government has also been trying to win over world public opinion. But in both moves, it has met with failure. The support - Viet Nam movement continues to gain in strength and scope. Activities in support of Viet Nam and in protest against U.S. aggression are being stepped up in many countries this July, on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements. Of late, U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk has, on several occasions, complained about the "injustice" of world public opinion which only protests against U.S. bombing of North Viet Nam and refrains from opposing the L.A.F. attacks on U.S. expeditionary troops in South Viet Nam. To explain this phenomenon is easy to everybody, even to Mr. Dean Rusk but he was not willing to speak it out.

What is most evident is that the higher the U.S. escalate the war, the stronger the support-Viet Nam movement. This movement has developed on a world-wide scale, drawing in people from all walks of life in various countries. The Viet Nam issue is the central problem of the world situation which comes up in almost all international political activities. What is most heard of and read about is discussions on Viet Nam, support for Viet Nam and condemnation of U.S. aggression in Viet Nam. These are also matters that arouse the greatest anxiety and concern.

In their hard but glorious struggle, the Vietnamese people have brothers and friends in all continents. The socialist countries are bound to them by a common ideal and goal, always stand by their side and give them all-out support and assistance to fight and defeat the U.S. imperialist aggressors. The great and invaluable assistance of the brother countries has been helping the Vietnamese people to increase their economic and national defence potential, step up the anti-U.S. fight for national salvation and win ever more important victories. The peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America and many governments of the nationally independent countries have given their approval and support to the Vietnamese people. Even in a number of countries whose rulers are serving as American stooges, such as Malaya, the Philippines and Thailand, the people are waging valiant struggle to demand an end to U.S. aggression against Viet Nam. In the capitalist countries of Europe and Australasia, as well as in Japan and Canada, the working class and people are increasing their support for Viet Nam and protesting against U.S. aggression and against the help given to the U.S. aggressors by the ruling circles in their own countries. In particular, the anti-war movement is gaining momentum even in the U.S. In defiance of repression by the Johnson Administration, the American people persist in their struggle for an end to the U.S. dirty war in Viet Nam.

What is remarkable is that slogans put forward in the support-Viet Nam movement are no longer isolated as previously. Today, people of various countries are focusing their actions on demanding an unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing of North Viet Nam, recognition of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and withdrawal of U.S. troops.

While large numbers of people round the world are coming out against the U.S., its supporters can be counted on the fingers. In summing up the anti-U.S. movement, on Feb. 7, 1967, U.S. Senator W. Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in Columbia that in all part of the world the U.S. had been condemned for its intervention in Viet Nam.

A striking feature of the anti-U.S. movement in support of Viet Nam in recent days is that the people of various countries, while continuing their usual methods of struggle, such as meetings and demonstrations, statements, teach-ins on U.S. policy etc., have devised more vigorous actions which have a greater impact on public opinion and increased U.S. embarrassment and isolation. Dozens of American citizens have resolutely opposed the Government order forcing them to go and fight in Viet Nam: they prefer to be in prison rather than take part in U.S. acts of aggression and murder. Workers and seamen of many countries including Japan, Australia, India and Indonesia have gone on strike, refused to produce arms for the U.S. aggressors or boycotted the shipment of U.S. weapons to Viet Nam. The wrecking of U.S. Embassies by demonstrators has become a common occurrence in many countries. Early this year, people in West European countries hurled rotten eggs and tomatoes and threw paint at U.S. Vice President Humphrey during his tour of these countries, in defiance of police repression. The end-the-war campaign launched by the American people in mid April this year with the participation of half a million people was the peak of their movement against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam. The Bertrand Russell International Tribunal held in May this year attracted the attention of the world public which regards it as a kind of Nuremberg Tribunal for the trial of the White House and Pentagon war criminals. At this tribunal, all U.S. crimes had been brought to light and all U.S. pleas categorically rejected.

These forms of struggle clearly indicate that the world-wide movement in support of Viet Nam is gaining in depth. It is clear that from their activities in this movement which are prompted by their desire to defend justice and oppose injustice, the peoples of various countries including the U.S. have now associated their own destiny, property, freedom and honour with the just cause of the Vietnamese people and take firm actions to support Viet Nam and oppose U.S. imperialist aggression.

The content of the support-Viet Nam movement is a clearcut answer to Dean Rusk's complaints. The world's peoples are giving ever more vigorous support to the Vietnamese people and condemning U.S. aggression even more strongly. This is because in the Viet Nam issue, the demarcation line between black and white, between right and wrong, has been clearly defined. The fight of the Vietnamese people is one for independence and freedom. It conforms to sense and sentiment and the march of history. Meanwhile the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam is a colonialist, brutal and criminal war which shocks human feelings and runs counter to all principles of human law, justice and ethics. Not only do the U.S. commit aggression against the Vietnamese

(Continued page 6)

Demonstration of 100,000 people in San Francisco on April 15, 1967: the demonstrators demand that the U.S. government put an end to the war in Vietnam.

NICOLAS CEAUSESCU AND JOSEF LENART CONDEMN THE U.S. AGGRESSORS AND SUPPORT VIET NAM

ADDRESSING a meeting at Alexandria, Bucharest, on July 6, Nicolas Ceausescu, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Communist Party said: "*We think that all forces of peace in the world must raise their voice to demand that the U.S. stop their raids on the D.R.V.N., that it must withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam so that the Vietnamese people can settle themselves their own affairs according to the heroic means, without interference from outside.*"

RECENTLY, at a Czechoslovak women's congress, Josef Lenart, Premier of the Czechoslovak Government said: "*The struggle of the Vietnamese people for freedom is a just struggle. As upholder of humanism and internationalism, we entirely side with the Vietnamese people and continue to support them.*"

LATIN AMERICA

THE WORLD ON OUR SIDE

SUPPORTS VIET NAM
Central America Communist Parties

AT their 5th congress held in May last, the Communist and Worker's Parties of Central America including Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico, issued a joint statement on Viet Nam which read: "*The Communist and Workers' Parties of Central America affirm once again their staunch support to the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people for independence, against U.S. aggression, and back the four-point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the five-point statement of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.*"

They call for the stepping up of their united actions in support of the Vietnamese people and demand the U.S. unconditionally and definitively stop the bombing and strafing of North Viet Nam, and withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam.

Ecuador

RECENTLY, the Ecuador people held a series of demonstrations against the U.S. in support of the struggle of the Vietnamese people.

The demonstrators wrecked the U.S. Embassy and the seat of the "Alliance for Progress" and "Peace Team".

Chile

RECENTLY, students of the Santiago university demonstrated against the U.S. imperialists and in support of Viet Nam. They declared they had refused to receive U.S. school requisites saying: "We turn down all gifts sent by those who are killing the Vietnamese people". "Yankee, get out of Chile."

The demonstration took place during the ceremony to hand over the presents to the students of Chile.

The Yankees who attended the meeting were pelted with addle eggs and rotten fruits by the students.

Argentina

ON May 25 the Support-Vietnam Movement in Argentina sent to the South Viet Nam N.F.L., a number of medicines to the value of one million *pesos*. This movement is contemplating to collect 8 million *pesos* for Viet Nam.

On May 25, 200 people in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, held a demonstration against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam.

The demonstrators heroically fought back the police called in to repress them.

APPEAL TO AMERICAN SCIENTISTS

THE 29th Congress of the International Federation of Scientists opened in Berlin sent an open letter to American scientists.

The letter wrote: "*The war escalation is going on; inventions of American scientists are used not to serve the young nation formerly subjugated which is now full of vitality and is building a new life, on the contrary these inventions are now used to manufacture napalm to burn down villages and toxic chemicals to destroy crops, kill civilians and other anti-personnel bombs,*

(Continued page 7)

U.S. STRATEGY IN SOUTH VIET NAM...

(Continued from page 3)

prophesy when victory would come... As to widening the war and changing the strategy, it not only will not help the U.S. out of the woods, on the contrary it will be extremely dangerous to it. In that case "the U.S. which has found itself in an unfavourable situation right at the start will become more isolated, having to confront many redoubtable enemies. The U.S. strategic position in the world will further decline and undergo a serious upheaval. The U.S. will have to fight on many complicated fronts at the same time. The force of the 31 million Vietnamese people, the socialist camp, the movement for national independence, democracy and world peace will certainly defeat such and adventurist strategy and are in fact showing to the U.S. that it is no easy job to implement such a strategy.

All the paths the U.S. has taken or may eventually take will inevitably lead it to the grave it has dug for itself in Viet Nam.

U.S. strategy in South Viet Nam is based on the concept of the "position of strength" policy and is an application of General Maxwell Taylor's "flexible response" strategy, an offspring of its neo-colonialist policy. Ironically enough, the logic of this strategy has been evolving in a direction dictated by the logic of things, that is the "position of strength" policy as well as the "flexible response" strategy have failed step by step. As a result, the U.S. strategy has proved sterile and has lost all its lustre and novelty although the U.S. aggressors remain stubborn and brutal and are still hatching many new, more wicked schemes. That is because this strategy carries in itself serious and irreconcilable contradictions. These contradictions in their turn reflect, and came under the influence of, the contradictions in the South Viet Nam society in the process of their development, of the contradictions on a world scale, and of the balance of forces in Viet Nam and in the world.

Lenin has said: "War is the continuation of politics by other means". In this context, the U.S. war of aggression and the U.S. military strategy are the continuation of a reactionary, unjust and inopportune policy. There lies the fundamental weakness of the U.S. aggressors.

The U.S. strategy must rely on the puppet army and administration, that is on the most backward, most reactionary and weakest social and political force in South Viet Nam. This is another fundamental weakness of the U.S.

As regards the U.S. expeditionary army, the U.S. strategy is not based on man and his morale but on weapons, fire power and the mobility of its means, which in fact has relegated U.S. ground troops to a secondary role. This is a further fundamental weakness of the U.S.

Moreover, the U.S. strategy has been confronted with the people's war strategy of the South Vietnamese and the Vietnamese people as a whole which is possessed of many superior points, a spirit of thoroughgoing revolution, great creativeness and an invincible strength.

For these many reasons, **especially and mainly due to the heroic and resourceful fight of our people, the** U.S. strategy on the South Viet Nam battlefield has been caught in a maze of contradictions — contradictions between political and military considerations, between concentration and dispersal of troops, between the offensive and the defensive, between "search and destroy" and "pacification", between the nature of the war and the way to conduct it, between mobility and occupation, between the desire to win quickly and the prospects of a long war, between the limitation and expansion of the war... These contradictions have caused U.S. constant loss of the initiative and made it impossible for the U.S. to make correct previsions and to charter the course of its actions. The Americans themselves have begun to admit this reality or part of it. But what can they do about all that since it obeys the objective law of development of things, not the subjective expectations and wishes of the U.S. rulers.

Caught in that vicious circle, it is impossible for the U.S. to find a way out even if it uses an electronic compass.

The U.S. has plenty of money, power, modern weapons and techniques. If these were really a magic wand the U.S. would have brought the war to a victorious end in a week because it now has at its disposal 25 billion dollars expenditures a year in Viet Nam plus a million soldiers including nearly 500,000 Americans. Such, however, is not the case. The decisive factor in any war and on the battlefield is man and his morale, not material potentials. We are indeed still inferior to the U.S. in terms of material wealth and technical means, but in political and moral strength we can say without exaggeration that the ratio between us and the U.S. and puppets is more than ten to less than one.

WHERE is the starting point of the U.S. strategy, where is it standing now and where it will go to?

The answer to these questions may be summed up as follows:

The U.S. strategy in South Viet Nam right from the start has borne in it the factor of failure. This factor stems from the unjust, most backward and most reactionary nature of the political line and objective of the U.S. war of aggression. Moreover the U.S. strategy began with a fundamental and serious error which stemmed from an erroneous evaluation of the balance of forces, hence the U.S. has chosen the wrong time, the wrong place and the wrong opponent for its war.

The U.S. strategy has now reached the last portion of the issueless tunnel which is the result of more than 10 years of repeated failures and blunders, the one more serious than the other. Within less than 7 years the U.S. applied two strategies and each time it began a new strategy the U.S. was full of confidence in its victory. But the fact is that one strategy has failed while the other is facing the practical possibilities and conditions of an almost complete failure. The U.S. has not yet given up its obstinate design to stick to the Southern part of our country. It is scheming new plots to intensify its war of aggression. Let us not indulge in complacency but increase our vigilance and be determined and ready to fight. However, we also know that the U.S. has landed in a very difficult political and strategic position. It is faced with a series of problems, for instance what is the way and methods, what strategic guide-line to adopt and how long it will take, to win victory in the war and convince the political objective of its war of aggression? In fact, the U.S. cannot yet solve and will never be able to solve this arduous problem. Such as the strategic position of the U.S. at the present time. This position is placing Johnson and his strategists and generals in a state of confusion and bewilderment.

Whither the U.S. strategy?

The only answer to this question is: it will go totally bankrupt and the U.S. imperialists will face complete failure such as has never been expected by them. That is the fate reserved for them because that is the logical course of things which no force on earth can reverse and which can be seen without much difficulty by anyone who has a materialistic outlook and a Marxist-Leninist dialectic method of thinking when examining the realities of Viet Nam and the world of today.

Saigon Intellectuals Under Thieu-Ky Terrorist Regime

G.P.X. (Liberation Press Agency) reported that following the mass arrests of writers, artists and intellectuals, including writer Vu Hanh, poet Ha Kieu, playwright Thu An, engineer Truong Nhu Tang, general overseer of South Viet Nam's sugar incorporation, in continuation of its campaign of terror which started in late April this year, the Thieu—Ky puppet administration arrested Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao in Saigon.

Along with this large-scale campaign of terror, the Thieu—Ky clique also put the press under harsh censorship. Many Saigon papers appeared with continual blank spaces in them because of this measure. On July 3, *Reuter* disclosed that every week, the Thieu—Ky clique arrested writers, journalists, intellectuals and those practising liberal professions who disagreed with the policy of the military junta, and noted that in Saigon, the neutralist tendency was regarded as a political offence.

The mass arrests and harsh press censorship carried out by the Thieu—Ky clique are designed to crack down on the movement for the freedom of the press, particularly on the popular movement and the opposition forces which are actively attacking their "presidential" and "senatorial" election farces.

Saigon press circles have come out against these acts of repression and the Western press has also denounced the fascist actions of the Thieu—Ky clique.

The Pentagon Steps Up Chemical War

THE Pentagon has placed an order of 57.60 million dollars of chemicals to be used in the U.S. war in South Viet Nam, reported *AP* on July 10, 1967. The news agency also revealed that this is only part of the Pentagon plan to use toxic chemicals to kill men and destroy crops.

AP on March 14 informed that in the 1967-1968 fiscal year, the U.S. would use a quantity of chemical products estimated at 100 million dollars, that means an increase of 49.5 million dollars over the budget ending July 1, 1967.

As usual, the U.S. authorities claim that toxic chemicals sprayed from U.S. planes are aimed at destroying the jungles and crops. But in reality, people, cattle and large areas of ricefields right in the Mekong delta such as Ben Tre, Tra Vinh, Can Tho etc, have been killed and heavily damaged by this inhuman war means condemned by all mankind.

AN IRRESISTIBLE MOVEMENT

(Continued from page 5)

people, but also trample upon all noble sentiments of mankind. The world's peoples clearly realize that to support and defend Viet Nam is nothing less than to support and defend the legitimate human rights and human dignity, as well as the independence of the nations and world peace which are being seriously jeopardized by U.S. imperialism. The American people are deeply aware that to struggle for an end to the war of aggression against Viet Nam is to struggle for the defence of their own country's honour, their traditions of freedom and democracy and their own lives.

For these reasons, in spite of all U.S. crafty manoeuvres and contentions, the movement of the world's peoples in support of Viet Nam continues to develop vigorously. It is a striking feature of our era. It tells of the political consciousness of the peoples of various countries who have come to realize the necessity and their obligation to fight for the defence of the freedom of the nations and peace, against the imperialists' aggression and war. In this fight, victory will certainly belong to the Vietnamese people and the world's peoples as a whole.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

HERE and THERE...

(Continued from page 4)

initiated the movement to become "Valiant 10-Ton (potato) Fighters" and to build "10-Ton (potato) Fields" (5 tons of paddy per hectare for the two crops of the year, 10 tons of potatoes per hectare for one crop).

PEOPLE'S Councils at all levels in Hoa Binh, an upland province, have held their first sessions to elect new administrative committees. Every district administrative committee has from 2 to 5 women members; in 8 of the 9 districts of the province, deputy heads of the administrative committees are women. Over 140 women have been elected heads of the village administrative committees.

THE Agricultural College has held a graduation ceremony for the first batch of 52 cultivation engineers and 29 animal husbandry and veterinary engineers trained under the part-work part-study system. Since 1955, the College has trained 3,200 agricultural engineers.

IN North Viet Nam's countryside, there are now over 25,000 nurseries and baby-sitting groups in charge of 304,000 children. There are also 7,100 infant classes with nearly 200,000 children.

AN UNDERGROUND VILLAGE

NOWHERE else in Long An province would the Americans have dropped their bombs and fired their artillery as intensively and frequently as on this area. A poet who had come a few days before me estimated that there was a bomb crater on every five square metres and more than three tons of hardware dropped per head of population. This average must now be higher during my stay there.

One afternoon Mr Tu living in my neighbourhood showed me 24 fresh bomb craters around the entrance of his shelter. Next morning Mrs Tam a hed her fellow villagers to come and look at 44 craters made by enemy bombs on her small plot of garden no more than 100 square metres. Here I hardly found a plot of land left intact or any green vegetation although it was the budding season. Groves of bamboos, rattan,... stood immobile with their dried twigs on a blackened soil from which rose the acrid smell of burnt jellied gasoline. When the sun began darting its scorching rays, columns of white smoke shot up then spread to the whole village like mist.

That is the smoke of phosphorous bombs dropped by the Americans days or even months before.

The intensity and frequency of the bombings and shellings could also be seen and heard in the fields of rice scorched from burnt paddy, in the intermittent slumbers in the trenches filled with muddy water where many have the sleepers would be woken up to take turns in scooping water out; in the knife held ready by each villager in his hand or girded at his side to help him get out of his trench in case it was smashed in by a bomb; at the shouts to buffaloes on a ricefield in the pitch darkness of night; in the first cries of a baby born in a trench deep in the earth... For all this hardship of life, man did not leave the land which had seen his birth and fed him

Mr Hai was many times "scooped" by the enemy into a concentration camp dubbed "Camp for refugees from the communist zone" yet each time he managed to evade and came back with a twisted smile on his toothless mouth. He would tell the villagers, "I would feed on grass and fight to the end with the revolution."

Little Ky had been living all these four years since his birth in the trench. Once he was sent to a camp together with his mother. When, a Yank held out a loaf of bread to him though very fond of bread, he brushed the loaf off the hand of the Yank down to the ground and turned away. That night he obstinately urged his mother to take him back to the village. "Where shall we sleep?" his mother asked. "Why, on the ground" the child said.

His father is a poor farmer. Once the man got a leech bite while working his field. The wound got infected and he could not afford medicaments his leg was amputated. The Yankee bombs and shells had burnt his cottage and killed his buffalo. All his family had been since living in an underground under the very plot of land allotted him by the revolutionary administration and embellished by his own labour.

Once he furiously battled with enemy troops who tried to force him into a helicopter. Not until then threw a tear grenade which blinded him and other villagers, could the Yanks push them into the aircraft. At the camp he loudly cursed in the face of the U.S. officers whenever he met them. One day the enemy summoned the internees to the entrance gate to hear a harangue. The brave farmer pretending to be illiterate pointed to a sign and asked an agent of the enemy what was written on it. When the agent sententiously answered, "Camp for refugees from the communist zone", the man furiously screamed at the top of his voice: "Damn the Yanks, they broke into my house, blindfolded me and forced me to go at gunpoint, and have the cheek to call me a refugee from the communist zone! Let me go back to the village, I don't want any refuge!" The same night he evaded and returned to his village on his crutches.

Beside his fearless father little Ky also has a courageous mother. At night she wades in the muddy field to plant rice to feed her family and supply the resistance bases. The enemy's shrapnel had riddled her plot with bullets, and artillery shells from a nearby post had dug large holes on it, yet the smile never died on the face of the brave woman. When taken by force to the concentration camp, like her husband she heaped abuses on the enemy and together with other villagers demanded adequate supplies of rice, cooking utensils, food and fire wood. When the enemy failed to meet their demands, she and others dismantled the 18 wooden shacks to make fire wood then one night ran away.

In this underground village there were also many boys and girls as proud and indomitable as their parents. In front of the 20 gun muzzles pointed at him little Duong showed no fear and refused to give any information to the enemy. Another youngster named Hoan whose parents had been murdered by the enemy lived a destitute life with his younger brother on a small abandoned garden. At night he would hide his brother in the trench and come out to join others in digging out a bomb newly dropped by the enemy to supply the arm-manufacture. On the very night of the burial of his mother and younger sisters and brothers killed by U.S. shells 14-year-old Hoa sat alone singing in a subdued voice the "Let's join the Liberation Army" song. Next day he left with a small bag on his shoulder and asked to join the Liberation Army together with hundreds of other youths of the village.

Many girls such as Nhan, Lan, Lua, Nhanh who were so frail and so soft-speaking had been elected elite workers in bomb-defusing for several consecutive years. Others like Ba and Hay, who always shyly replied to a congratulation with a "I don't think I'm courageous enough", were many times seen continuing to unhusk rice right at the entrance of their shelters while hundreds of shells were exploding around and when everybody had already sought cover. The reason was simple: they feared that there would not be enough rice to supply the army over there across the river early to morrow.

This silly-looking De was once arrested by the enemy but obstinately said "no" to all their questions. Every night she took part in carrying "strategic goods" to the front on a road ploughed up by enemy bombs and bullets.

Old Su with his snow-white hair and beard stood proudly in his garden like an old tree. With a grim determination to stick to his land he had himself dug 14 shelters with solid tops around his garden together with hundreds of metres of communication trench. This he said, would help him move about underground with ease and provide guerillas with a safe spot to fight off eventual enemy raids. In spite of his old age, old Su took the lead in all activities of this underground village: encouraging the young men to join the Liberation Army, stimulating the villagers to contribute to the resistance funds, to dig out dud bombs dropped by the enemy and to boost rice production.

Almost every night he was seen, working on his garden even in bad weather. The villagers could easily recognize the hoe-strokes made by him because he was usually the earliest to start farm work.

When someone asked, "So early, Mr Su?" he would reply, "We must hurry up before the Yanks arrive.

Late in the night, when people asked him, "So late, Mr Su?" he said, "Let's make the most of the time the Yanks are sleeping

Otherwise, how could you defeat the U.S. aggressors?" The question was what was uppermost in the minds of all the inhabitants of the area. It explained why the people were sticking so steadfastly to their land and showed no sign of wavering in the face of such intensive shelling and bombing by the enemy.

One day an old man showed me round the village. We went by deep bomb craters, came upon uprooted bamboo groves and gardens blackened by napalm and watched columns of white smoke rising from phosphorous bombs. He said:

"Don't think that man here has also withered like the trees!" One day a unit of the Liberation Army passed through the devastated village. From the ground under their feet there suddenly emerged a hand amidst a tuft of dried grass waving to them:

"Come here, my sons!"

Following the call of the old mother, hundreds of men, women and children from the underground village came out to cheer the passing Liberation fighters.

The underground village has the formidable vitality of a flawless cog-wheel of the huge people's war machine of South Viet Nam.

THE FORCE THAT RAISES THE PEOPLE

(Continued from page 4)

increase the country's economic and defence potential. In spite of the ever intensified war of destruction conducted by the American imperialists with air, naval and artillery forces, they have recorded glorious achievements:

— A bumper Winter 1966-Spring 1967 crop in spite of American attacks and unfavourable weather conditions. According to preliminary figures, the output of Summer rice increased 22 per cent compared with last year; Spring rice (additional crop) was very good; sweet potato and manioc yields have also greatly increased.

—Fast and all-sided development of industry, especially regional industry. This efficiently serves agriculture and the life of the people.

— In spite of difficulties born of the war the transport and distribution of equipment and commodities with a view to serving combat, production and the people's life has been kept going. The people's needs in food, clothing, shelter, education, and medical care have been satisfied. The market has remained stable.

In the 1966-67 school year, school enrolment in general education established today has increased fourfold compared with 1964-65. Over a million children are going to infant schools and over a million adults to complementary education classes. Millions of schoolteachers, men and women, are fulfilling their assignments like fighters at the front. While carrying on their teaching, they valiantly and selflessly seek to protect the lives of schoolchildren, threatened by savage U.S. air attacks.

— The medical network has extended not only to villages but even to agricultural co-operatives. On all fighting fronts, medical workers are present and courageously carry out their duties in extremely hard and dangerous conditions.

Millions of young men and women, a shock force seething with zeal and fervour, night and day go to the most dangerous spots and carry out the most difficult and complex assignments. President Ho's appeal has set their young blood boiling: they will shrink from no difficulty or danger and are ready to sacrifice their lives for the fatherland.

The women, an important force in all fields of activity are bringing their "Three Responsibilities"* spirit into full play and fully deserve the admiration of their compatriots.

All labouring people, whatever their occupation and position, are fully imbued with the spirit of the President's appeal: "We are at one in our determination to undergo any hardships and sacrifices, and resolutely fulfil the glorious task of our people: to defeat the U.S. aggressors." (Appeal of July 17, 1966).

Although the basic schemes of the American imperialists in Viet Nam have met with pitiful failure, they obstinately persist in their designs: they are resorting to the most barbarous measures and will resort to still more in the hope of saving their desperate situation. As President Ho Chi Minh has pointed out in a letter to Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and other members of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation congratulating them on the victories won by the South Vietnamese people and armed forces in Winter 1966-Spring 1967, "the closer we come to victory, the greater our difficulties".

But whatever difficulties and hardships they may have to endure, the people of Viet Nam are resolved to fight on until final victory. As wrote President Ho Chi Minh in the same letter, "the North and the South, fighting together, are resolved to defeat the American aggressors. The 17 million North Vietnamese people are firmly determined to fulfil their duty: to fight shoulder to shoulder with their 14 million Southern brothers in order to liberate the South, defend the North and progress towards national reunification."

The iron determination and deep feeling expressed in President Ho Chi Minh's letter to Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho is representative of the thoughts and feelings of the entire Vietnamese people in their struggle for national independence and freedom and for genuine peace.

** To take charge of production work, to do household work, and to serve the front and fight the enemy.*

The Whole World...

(Continued from page 5)

all the above-mentioned acts are done in your name.

"We are deeply concerned in the heroic efforts of the American people of all walks of life who have clearly expressed their hatred for what is happening in Viet Nam in their own name.

"We have read the statements of many American scientists including the most famous ones who have come out against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam."

ON HIGHWAY No 9

HEAVY punishing blows continue to rain on the U. S. aggressors and their henchmen along Highway 9 which has seen many heroic feats of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces. In the early days of July, following fierce battles in the Khe Sanh area, the L.A.F. inflicted new bloody defeats on the enemy in Gio An. According to first reports from *G.P.X.*, in the bitter fighting that took place in Gio An from July 2 to July 6, the L.A.F. wiped out more than 1,300 U.S. Marines including 8 companies completely put out of action or heavily depleted. They also destroyed 16 tanks. The U.S. aggressors themselves admitted that "bodies of American soldiers lay in the sun everywhere" (*UPI*, July 5), that the U.S. marines "felt as if the world was bursting all around" (*UPI*, July 4), that "American casualties were the worst so far". Lieutenant General Robert Cashman who had freshly replaced the disgraced Major General Lewis Walt, complained, "the price we had to pay is higher than I expected". He also conceded that he "knew nothing of the intention of the adversary" (*UPI*, July 6). In a series of attacks on the U.S. Marines in Gio An the intrepid fighters on Highway 9 fought with courage, resourcefulness and flexibility, moving as quickly as squirrels and striking as powerfully as tigers while performing close co-ordination and mutual support between the infantry and artillery. That is why they not only wiped out neatly many enemy companies and destroyed large quantities of enemy war means but also captured many G.I.s and seized a big haul of weapons.

The victories in Gio An ushered in a stage of new and bigger victories of the L.A.F. in July, a month of emulation recently initiated by the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation to record exploits in honour of July 20—anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

The U.S. military bosses, from McNamara to Westmoreland, bitterly admitted that the Highway 9 battlefront was one which had given them the greatest concern. For more than one year the U.S. aggressors have been exerting every effort to build a strong defence line along Highway 9 to protect their rear in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces and also to serve as a springboard for their attacks on North Viet Nam. They have deployed in this theatre an important force of U.S. Marines which at times rose to a dozen battalions of their elite troops. Yet they still are incapable of resisting the relentless offensive of the L.A.F. and local people. They have resorted to the most barbarous schemes, such as herding the people into concentration camps, setting up a no-man's-land and building a fence along the southern border of the demilitarized zone. Yet they still cannot cope with the attacks skilfully mounted by the Liberation Armed Forces.

Reporting on the battles along Highway 9 the Western press many times deplored the critical situation of the U.S. Marines there. "The U.S. soldiers are living in a very precarious and forlorn situation" (*Reuter*, April 29), "the Americans can do nothing other than curse loudly and die" (*UPI*, May 7).

Together with the Liberation fighters on Highway 9, the whole of Quang Tri and Thua Thien is submerged in a high against the U.S. aggressors. In the first four months of this year, the L.A.F. and people of these two northernmost provinces of South Viet Nam put out of action 21,300 enemies (including more than 10,000 G.I.'s), wiped out or heavily decimated 10 U.S. and puppet battalions and 21 "pacification" teams, shot down or destroyed 105 aircraft and 624 military vehicles.

In May alone they put out of action 10,324 adverse troops (including 6,479 G.I.'s), wiped out or heavily mauled 7 battalions, 18 companies and 9 "pacification" teams, shot down 9 aircraft and destroyed 196 military vehicles. In June and the early part of July the local armed forces and people continued to win major victories.

From Highway 9 the song of victory is spreading to the whole of South Viet Nam. On July 2, at the same time with the first victory of the Quang Tri Liberation Armed Forces in Gio An, the L.A.F. in Binh Dinh fiercely attacked four companies of the U.S. 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division in northern Bong Son, inflicting heavy losses on them. The next day, the L.A.F. in Thua Thien ambushed an enemy military convoy north of Hai Van Pass, destroying 50 vehicles, wiping out 200 American and puppet troops and capturing ten others. On the night of the same day and in the early hours of July 4, the L.A.F. in Sa Dec province attacked a command post of the riverine forces of the U.S. and puppets in Cao Lanh, taking a heavy toll of the enemy. On July 4, the guerillas in Ba Ria province blew up two bridges on Highway 15, blocking the transport of weapons and ammunition of the enemy from Vung Tay to Saigon—Bien Hoa. On the same night, the L.A.F. in Quang Nam province lobbed a violent mortar and artillery fire on the headquarters of U.S. Marine Regiment 5 in An Hoa, killing or wounding numerous enemy troops.

McNamara and his brains-trust came in Saigon to make "on-the-scene" investigation and also to see with their own eyes the whole situation of the aggressive war of the U.S. ruling circles. By their powerful attacks, the Liberation fighters and people in South Viet Nam are showing the Pentagon boss that the ground is giving way under his feet.

L.A.F. RELENTLESS OFFENSIVES IN QUANG TRI — THUA THIEN

☆ **QUANG TRI: 1,320 U.S. Aggressors Wiped Out in Gio An (6 Companies Put out of Action, 2 Others Decimated), 16 Tanks Set Ablaze, 2 Planes Shot Down in the Spot. — Dong Ha Airfield Fiercely Mortared: 13 Helicopters Destroyed or Damaged, the Airfield Paralysed.**

☆ **THUA THIEN: One Enemy Convoy Intercepted: 50 Vehicles Destroyed, Over 200 Enemy Troops Wiped Out.**

QUANG TRI

FOLLOWING the battle on July 2, 1967 in which they wiped out 3 companies, heavily decimated 2 other companies and captured 40 enemy troops of U.S. Marine Regiment 9 in Gio An (see *Viet Nam Courier* N°118), the L.A.F. in Quang Tri province repeatedly dealt hammer blows at the enemy in this area:

July 4, 1967: Two U.S. Marine battalions of Regiment 9 and Regiment 3 were fiercely intercepted in Gio An. The L.A.F. broke many attacks of the enemy, shelled mortar at their formations and engaged the enemy in many hand-to-hand fights. Throughout July 4, U.S. columns could not advance. The enemy suffered over 200 casualties.

July 5, 1967: The L.A.F. heavily pounded Cua Viet position and Dong Ha base. The U.S. headquarters at Cua Viet was hit, many underground shelters and blockhouses destroyed.

July 6, 1967: At 6 a.m. three U.S. Marine companies supported by tanks, aircraft and cannons infiltrated into the Gio An area 10km southwest of Gio Linh, but came under a heavy fire barrage of the L.A.F.: 150 G.I.'s were killed or wounded and 6 tanks destroyed or set ablaze.

The U.S. then rushed into the area Battalions 1 and 3 of Marine Regiment 3. But at 3.30 p.m. they ran into stiff resistance from the L.A.F. who chopped up their formations. Right in the first minutes of the battle, 4 U.S. tanks were set afire, one L.19 reconnaissance plane was shot down. The L.A.F. engaged the enemy in many hand-to-hand battles, chased them from one field and hill after another, wiped out one group after another, set ablaze or destroyed 3 more U.S. tanks. The panic-stricken enemy troops had to group themselves but were assailed by artillery fire. The artillery grounds in Dong Ha, Doc Mieu, Con Tien were also violently attacked and prevented from rescuing the battered troops in Gio An.

Initial reports said during 2 battles on July 6, 600 U.S. Marines were wiped out among them 3 companies of Battalion 1, Regiment 3. 13 U.S. tanks destroyed or set afire and one plane shot down.

July 8, 1967: The L.A.F again attacked the U.S. Marines of Regiment 3, about 3km southwest of Con Tien, and the Dong Ha airfield with big gun fire. The U.S. Marine commanders in Da Nang admitted that at 6 p.m. the battle in Con Tien still continued and 44 G.I.'s had been killed or wounded while in Dong Ha 13 choppers had been hit by explosive shells on July 10; the airfield was seriously damaged and was closed down for repair.

According to still incomplete figures, within 5 days from July 2 to 6, (not including the battles on July 7) the L.A.F. in Quang Tri wiped out 1,320 U.S. troops among them 6 companies, whittled down 2 other companies, destroyed or set ablaze 16 tanks, knocked down 2 aircraft, captured or destroyed a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment.

THUA THIEN

ACCORDING to further reports from *G.P.X.*, on Phu Gia pass, 15km north of Hai Van Pass, the L.A.F. on July 3, 1967 ambushed a U.S. military convoy, destroying or setting ablaze the whole advance convoy of 50 vehicles and two 105-mm cannons, wiping out 200 U.S. and puppet troops and capturing 10 others. Following this tough battle the enemy had to rush 2 puppet ranger battalions to guard this section of Highway 1.

A month ago, also in Thua Thien, the guerillas of Phong Dien district at noon on June 8 intercepted, with home-made mines, over 100 vehicles loaded with Yanks moving along Highway 1, some 17km north of Hue. The attack resulted in 16 U.S. military vehicles, one 105-mm artillery piece, 2 wireless sets completely destroyed, and over 100 G.I.'s killed or wounded.

BA RIA

ACCORDING to further reports from *G.P.X.*, during their surprise attack on the base of one regiment of U.S. Infantry Division 9 and on U.S. Armoured Regiment 11 in Ngai Giao on the night of June 18, 1967, within 40 minutes the L.A.F. overran the enemy Infantry Regiment H.Q., wiping out completely the commanders and 4 infantry companies of U.S. artillerymen and infantrymen. All told, 700 G.I.'s were killed or wounded, 70 M41 and M48 tanks and M113 armoured cars, 4 heavy guns of the 106.7 caliber and 2 long-range 175-mm cannons destroyed.

BIEN HOA — VINH LONG

WITHIN about a week (from May 29 to June 5) the guerillas in Tan Uyen (Bien Hoa) foiled a raid conducted by 2 U.S.-puppet battalions, killing or wounding 170 enemy troops among them 100 G.I.'s, shot down 2 planes, and destroyed 3 military trucks. On May 31 in particular, 2 guerillas in My Loc hamlet counter-attacked the enemy throughout the day, wiping out 30 enemy troops, and bringing down 2 jet planes and one helicopter.

From June 9 to 16, the guerillas in Vinh Long encircled and repeatedly battered the enemy, killing, wounding or capturing 208 enemies among whom 60 Yankees, razed to the ground 2 blockhouses, sank or damaged 5 war vessels. The guerillas in Tam Binh destroyed 11 aircraft, destroyed or damaged 4 military vehicles.

A NAKED CRIME

Demilitarized Zone and Vinh Linh (D.R.V.N.) Bombed by B. 52 Planes

ON July 13, 1967, B.52 planes, in many waves, indiscriminately bombed Trung Son village (South) and Vinh Son (North of the demilitarized zone), Vinh Lam and Vinh Thuy villages of Vinh Linh area (near that zone), destroying houses, animals and crops.

The statement issued by the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry pointed out: The bombing which took place "right after Defence Secretary McNamara has inspected the locality, shows that the U.S. deliberately sabotages the statute of the demilitarized zone, steps up the war of aggression against Viet Nam and tramples brazenly on the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and all international law."

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